

CALIFORNIA AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER INITIATIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 16, 2004, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced 12 new grants in its second round of funding for Aging and Disability Resource Center Programs. The California Department of Aging was among the grantees selected and will receive \$800,000 to be used over a three-year grant period to develop the "California Aging and Disability Resource Center Initiative."

The goal of this initiative is to develop effective Resource Centers, highly visible in the community, that provide the public with easily accessible, understandable information, counseling and/or assistance, and program linkage on the full range of aging and long term support options; benefits counseling; LTC planning; and health promotion that will enhance individual choice, support informed decision-making; and foster public understanding of the use of home and community-based supports.

This Initiative involves a "One Stop" approach to the services provided at the Resource Centers, simplifying not only the number of places, but the eligibility and assessment processes, consumers must go through to get the assistance they need. Without question, a successful California program will require a partnership across agencies and programs at the state and local level.

CDA is submitting this grant with Area 1 Agency on Aging, applying on behalf of Del Norte County and San Diego County Aging and Independence Services. These agencies will establish a Resource Center in their county in collaboration with a number of committed partners. Key activities will include:

- Analyzing how current programs and processes could be simplified and consumer information and access to aging and long term support options improved;
- Conducting Resource Center public awareness activities to make these Centers highly visible;
- Targeting outreach to underserved or hard-to-reach groups through community partnerships and use of their mobile Info Van, particularly in rural areas;
- Identifying potential modifications to the Network of Care website to enhance this tool's usefulness;
- Partnering with particular physicians and their staff who will champion the cause of building bridges between the health and social service networks since physicians are often key advisors to families in long term care decision-making and often know very little about the capacity of home and community-based support services and have little time to directly be establishing these linkages for patients.

This California proposal uses the programs, tools and strong relationships already in place as a foundation for building these Resource Centers. Equally important, these Resource Centers will be based on a consumer-directed model that recognizes and emphasizes the consumer's desire for individual choice, direct involvement in making health related decisions and the preference to receive care in the home and community.

Both counties will establish Advisory Committees that include the active participation of consumers representing all segments of the target population; family caregivers; public and private providers, and other interested parties in all stages of the analyses, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities.